

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-14, 16-17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 31, 33-34, 36-39 and 41-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Grube (US 2002/0151194A1). Claims 5, 15, 18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Grube (US 6,811,406 B2) in view of Ma (US 6,814,587 B2). Claims 22, 28, 29, 32, 35 and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Grube (US 6,811,406 B2) in view of Eldridge et al. (US 6,888,362 B2). Claim 26 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Grube (US 6,811,406 B2) in view of Harper, Jr. (US 6,994,565 B2). Claim 30 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Grube (US 6,811,406 B2) in view of Eldridge et al. (US 6,888,362 B2) and Ma (US 6,814,587 B2). Claim 40 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Grube (US 6,811,406 B2) in view of Neidich et al. (US 6,672,879 B2). The examiner is requested to reconsider these rejections.

Claims 10 and 24 have been converted from dependent form into independent form. This change in form does not narrow or limit the scope of the claims. The independent claims which claims 10 and 24 were formerly dependent upon have not been cancelled. Therefore, the full scope of the doctrine of equivalents should apply to claims 10 and 24 as if they were originally presented in independent form when the application was filed. In view of paragraph 9 of the office action, claims 10 and 24 should be in condition for allowance.

Claim 26 has not been amended because it is believed that Harper Jr. is not a proper reference. The present application has priority back to 7/30/2004. Harper Jr. is owned by the same owner as the present application: FCI. Harper Jr. and the present application were, at the time the invention of the present application was made, commonly owned. The examiner is directed to MPEP §706.02(l)(2). In accordance with MPEP §706.02(l)(2)(II), it is understood that this statement alone is sufficient evidence to disqualify Harper Jr. from being used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) against the claims of the present application. Thus, the examiner is requested to withdraw the rejections based upon Harper Jr.

Claim 1 has been amended above to clarify applicant's claimed invention. Claim 1 claims that the support portion is seated in the connector housing, and that the terminal further comprises a contact tail portion extending from the support portion out of the housing. In Grube the terminal 400 has a base portion 404 which the examiner has indicated he considers it to be applicant's claimed support portion. Base portion 404 is described as being mounted directly to substrate 416. Nowhere in Grube is there a disclosure or suggestion of base portion 404 being seated in the connector housing. Nor is there a disclosure or suggestion that the terminal 400 has a contact tail portion extending from the base portion 404 out of a housing. The features of claim 1 are not disclosed or suggested in the art of record. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable and should be allowed.

Though dependent claims 2-9, 11-23, 25 and 27-45 contain their own allowable subject matter, these claims should at least be

Appl. No.: 10/566,865
Reply to Office Action of: 09/18/2006

allowable due to their dependence from allowable claim 1. However, to expedite prosecution at this time, no further comment will be made.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issue remain, the examiner is invited to call applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark F. Harrington

Mark F. Harrington (Reg. No. 31,686)

12/12/06

Date

Customer No.: 29683
Harrington & Smith, LLP
4 Research Drive
Shelton, CT 06484-6212
203-925-9400

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail on the date shown below in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

December 13, 2006
Date

Debby J. Harrington
Name of Person Making Deposit